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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/877,810	06/07/2001	Jonathan J. Barrow	EMC-01-087	1207
7590	12/14/2004		EXAMINER	
DAVID E. HUANG, ESQ. CHAPIN & HUANG, LLC WESTBOROUGH OFFICE PARK 1700 WEST PARK DRIVE WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581			TAYLOR, NICHOLAS R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2141	
DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/877,810	BARROW ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nicholas R Taylor	2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2001.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06/07/2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/23/2001.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-34 have been examined and are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18-20, 22-25, 27, 28, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al. (US Patent 6,342,608) and Hoese et al. (US Patent 6,421,753.)

4. As per claims 1 and 18, Papa teaches a network adapter that may be used in a network data storage system (Papa, column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 6) to permit data communication among data exchanging devices and a data storage system input/output (I/O) controller, the controller residing in the data storage system, the data exchanging devices being external to the adapter, the adapter comprising (Papa, column 7, lines 26-33):

one or more interfaces that may be coupled to an electrical backplane of the system, the backplane being coupled to the controller and being configured to permit

communication between the controller and the adapter when the one or more interfaces are coupled to the backplane (Papa, column 7, lines 7-15, and figure 3c);

and a system integrated into the adapter, the system having a first set of ports that may be coupled to the data exchanging devices (Papa, column 8, lines 33-38) and a second set of ports that may couple the system to the controller when the one or more interfaces are coupled to the backplane (Papa, column 7, lines 7-15, and figure 3c.)

However, although Papa teaches the use of any compatible controller card (Papa, column 8, lines 45-48), Papa fails to teach the specific use of a switch system. Hoese teaches the use of a switch system that controls data flow in a storage network (Hoese, column 3, lines 38-44.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Papa and Hoese to provide the switching system of Hoese in the system of Papa, because doing so would allow the ability to centralize local storage for networked workstations and allow accessing the virtual storage as if it were local. This is stated as referenced in the art (Hoese, column 2, lines 26-29.)

5. As per claims 2 and 19, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the one or more interfaces comprise at least one interface through which a command may be issued to the adapter to cause the adapter to change from an operational mode to a diagnostic mode (Hoese, column 7, lines 24-28.)

6. As per claims 3 and 20, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the data storage system comprises a set of mass storage devices that may exchange data with the data exchanging devices via the adapter (Papa, column 3 line 65 to column 4, line 6.)

7. As per claims 5 and 22, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the switching system comprises a fibre channel switching fabric (Hoese, column 3, lines 33-36.)

8. As per claims 6 and 23, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the one or more interfaces comprise a management interface through which the controller may issue (Hoese, column 7, lines 24-28) via the backplane a command to the adapter (Papa, column 7, lines 26-33.)

9. As per claims 7 and 24, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the one or more interfaces permit a processor to issue a command to the adapter via the backplane, the processor being external to the data exchanging devices, the adapter, and the controller (Papa, column 4, lines 11-16, wherein the processor is a separate module external to the others, see also figures 1 and 2.)

10. As per claims 8 and 25, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the processor is external to the data storage system (Papa, column 4, lines 11-16, wherein

the processor is a separate module external to the data storage devices, such as those shown 172 of figure 1.)

11. As per claims 10 and 27, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the one or more interfaces include a first interface and a second interface, the first interface permitting the controller to issue a first command to the adapter for causing the adapter to change from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation (Hoese, column 7, lines 25-30), the second interface permitting configuration-related information to be retrieved from a non-volatile memory comprised in the adapter (Hoese, column 6, line 61 to column 7, line 3.)
12. As per claims 11 and 28, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein in the second mode of operation, a diagnostic test of the adapter is performed (Hoese, column 7, lines 25-30.)
13. As per claims 14 and 31, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the adapter is an electrical circuit card that is configured to be electrically and mechanically coupled to the backplane (Papa, column 7, lines 7-15.)
14. As per claims 15 and 32, Papa teaches a circuit card configured to be inserted into and received by a circuit card slot (Papa, column 8, lines 33-38) in a network data storage system (Papa, column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 6), the card comprising:

one or more interfaces that may be coupled via signal transmission system of the data storage system to an input/output (I/O) controller of the data storage system when the card is inserted into the slot, the one or more interfaces permitting communication between the controller and the card when the one or more interfaces are coupled to the controller (Papa, column 7, lines 7-15, and figure 3c);

and a device having a first set of ports that may be coupled to data exchanging devices external to the card and the data storage system (Papa, column 8, lines 33-38), and a second set of ports that may couple the device to the controller when the card is inserted into the slot (Papa, column 7, lines 7-15, and figure 3c.)

However, although Papa teaches the use of any compatible controller card (Papa, column 8, lines 45-48), Papa fails to teach the specific use of a switch. Hoese teaches the use of a switch system that controls data flow in a storage network (Hoese, column 3, lines 38-44.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Papa and Hoese to provide the switching system of Hoese in the system of Papa, because doing so would allow the ability to centralize local storage for networked workstations and allow accessing the virtual storage as if it were local. This is stated as referenced in the art (Hoese, column 2, lines 26-29.)

15. As per claims 16 and 33, Papa-Hoese teaches the system further wherein the one or more interfaces comprise a first interface, a second interface, and a third interface, the first interface permitting a processor that is external to the card and the

controller to issue a command to the card (Papa, column 4, lines 11-16, wherein the processor is a separate module external to the others, see also figures 1 and 2), the second interface permitting the controller to issue a diagnostic command to the card (Hoese, column 7, lines 25-30), and the third interface permitting configuration-related information to be retrieved from a non-volatile memory comprised in the card (Hoese, column 6, line 61 to column 7, line 3.)

16. Claims 4, 9, 21, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al. (US Patent 6,342,608) and Hoese et al. (US Patent 6,421,753) and Droms ("Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol.")

17. As per claims 4 and 21, Papa-Hoese teaches the system above wherein the adapter has a slot identification number that identifies a location in the data storage system (Papa, figure 2, by canister/slot number.) However, Papa-Hoese fails to teach assigning a network layer address based upon location.

Droms teaches assigning a network address based on an identifier location (Droms, sections 2.1-2.2.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Papa-Hoese and Droms to provide the IP assignment of Droms in the system of Papa-Hoese, because doing so would allow allocating network addresses enabling use of TCP/IP communication. This is stated as referenced in the art (Droms, abstract.)

18. As per claims 9 and 26, Papa-Hoese teaches the system above wherein an adapter may be changed during a configuration of the data storage system, the processor being coupled to the adapter via a network, the adapter being accessible via the network (Hoese, column 6, line 61 to column 7, line 3.) However, Papa-Hoese fails to teach the changing to a second network address which is accessible via the network.

Drums teaches changing a network address which is then usable by a network (Drums, section 3.2.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Papa-Hoese and Drums to provide the IP assignment of Drums in the system of Papa-Hoese, because doing so would allow allocating network addresses enabling use of TCP/IP communication. This is stated as referenced in the art (Drums, abstract.)

19. Claims 12, 13, 17, 29, 30, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al. (US Patent 6,342,608) and Hoese et al. (US Patent 6,421,753) and "Ping Manual Page" (Ping hereafter.)

20. As per claims 12 and 29, Papa-Hoese teaches the system above wherein the diagnostic test comprises one of a built-in self-test (BIST) of the adapter (Hoese, column 7, lines 19-24.) However, Papa-Hoese fails to teach a different test of the adapter, the different test including transmission of a test vector along a first test path in the adapter, the test path beginning and ending at a first I/O port that couples the

adapter to the controller when the one or more interfaces are coupled to the backplane, the test path including a subset of the first set of ports of the switching system.

Ping teaches a test including a test vector that goes along a path that begins and ends at a first I/O port, whose path includes a subset of the first set of ports of the system (Ping, description.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Papa-Hoese and Ping to provide the testing of Ping in the system of Papa-Hoese, because doing so would allow diagnostic testing of the network.

21. As per claims 13 and 30, Papa-Hoese-Ping teaches the system further wherein the different test also includes the transmission of a test vector along a second test path in the adapter, the second test path beginning and ending at a different I/O port that couples the adapter to the controller when the one or more interfaces are coupled to the backplane, the second test path including a different subset of the first set of ports of the switching system (Ping, description.)

22. As per claims 17 and 34, Papa-Hoese teaches the system above wherein the diagnostic command causes the card to execute a diagnostic test of the card, the test comprising one of a built-in self-test (BIST) (Hoese, column 7, lines 19-24.) However, Papa-Hoese fails to teach a different test, the different test including transmission of test vectors along a first test path in the card, the test path beginning and ending at a first

I/O port that couples the card to the controller when the card is inserted in the slot, the test path including a subset of the first set of ports of the switch.

Ping teaches a test including a test vector that goes along a path that begins and ends at a first I/O port, whose path includes a subset of the first set of ports of the system (Ping, description.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Papa-Hoese and Ping to provide the testing of Ping in the system of Papa-Hoese, because doing so would allow diagnostic testing of the network.

Conclusion

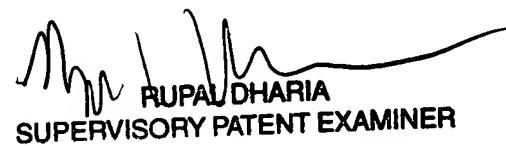
23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. This includes US PGPubs: 2002/0118685 A1 and 2002/0080575 A1. This also includes US Patent: 5,941,972

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Taylor whose telephone number is (571) 272-3889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 5:30pm, with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3718.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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